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**Prayer for Europe**

**On the way to 9th May 2023**

**TOGETHER FOR EUROPE**

… is an initiative of more than 300 Christian communities and movements of different churches throughout Europe.  The charisms, the gifts that God gives us in these communities and movements have led us on a path of fraternity and cooperation. In this fraternity and of our being together we see the vocation of Europe. Our fellowship flows from the love of the Gospel that excludes no one.

That is why we have always renewed the Pact of mutual love, love that Jesus in His Gospel commanded us. We are renewing this Pact today.

**The Pact of mutual love**

Jesus says: **“I give you a new commandment: love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you. It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognize you as my disciples”.** (Jn 13:34–35)

Jesus, we say yes to your commandment and today we renew our Pact of mutual love. We want to love one another as you have loved us. We ask you to strengthen our love through the Holy Spirit and to be among us, as you promised. Work in us and through us, as together, we collaborate for your Kingdom.

**Why a nine-day-prayer this time?**

Dear friends, in the past four years we have been invited to a six-week prayer journey. This idea developed at our Steering Committee meeting in Porto: could it be a nine-day-prayer leading up towards the Europe Day? The oldest Novena in Christianity is the nine days between Christ’s Ascension and Pentecost in which, the Apostles together with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, invoked the Holy Spirit.

Let us do this together this year, all over Europe, for our continent and all the concerns of our networks.

Thomas Römer, YMCA Munich

**The ‘‘Lord’s Prayer‘ – a prayer for Europe**

**Sunday 30.04.2023 Day 1**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Our Father, who art in heaven‘‘ - for Europe**

**Monday 1.05.2023 Day 2**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Hallowed be your name‘‘ - for life**

**Tuesday 2.05.2023 Day 3**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Thy kingdom come‘‘ - for married couples and families**

**Wednesday 3.05.2023 Day 4**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven‘‘ - for creation**

**Thursday 4.05.2023 Day 5**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘give us this day, our daily bread‘‘ - for a just economy**

**Friday 5.05.2023 Day 6**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us‘‘ - for solidarity with the poor**

**Sat 6.05.2023 Day 7**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Lead us not into temptation‘‘ - for peace**

**Sunday 7.05.2023 Day 8**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Deliver us from evil!‘‘- for responsibility for our society**

**Monday 8.05.2023 Day 9**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory‘‘ - for Europe**

**Day 1**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Our Father who art in heaven‘‘**

Heavenly Father we trust in you. You are merciful, patient and of great goodness (Psalm 103,8). You are good and you care for humanity. We thank you for that. We ask you that we Christians in Europe - filled with your love - can contribute to a Europe shaped by your grace, mercy and goodness. Amen.

**We pray for Europe:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for Europe, the continent on which we are permitted to live. We thank you for the Apostles who have brought to us the Gospel of Jesus. We thank you for all the fathers and mothers of faith who lived your mercy in an exemplary way.  We ask you for all people who live in Europe; for all peoples, for the cities and regions, that we will find a new peaceful coexistence and discover real joy in each other. Help us, as Christian communities and movements to give our contribution to a more benevolent Europe. Amen.

**Today we pray for:**

* **Albania**
* **Andorra**
* **Belgium**
* **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
* **Bulgaria**

**Day 2**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Hallowed be thy name‘‘**

‘‘Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness ‘‘ (Psalm 115,1 Zürcher)

Heavenly Father, may your name be sanctified in our personal lives, in our communities and movements, in our homes, cities, countries and peoples. Therefore, send us your Holy Spirit who renews us. Amen.

**We say Yes to life.**

We pray for everyone dedicating themselves to human life in all stages of its development.  We pray for doctors, nurses, midwives, and all those who work in social professions. Protect and preserve all human life. And help us to cry out, loud and clear, that Yes to life. Amen.

**Today we pray for:**

* **Denmark**
* **Germany**
* **Estonia**
* **Finland**
* **France**
* **Greece**

**Day 3**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Thy kingdom come!‘‘**

Father, your healing sovereignty comes to us today.

Overcome with your love everything in and around us that is standing in the way of your Word and your Will. Help us - as Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 6:33) - to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness Amen.

**We say Yes to family.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all married couples and families in Europe, that they may live together in reconciliation, be places of peace, love and righteousness. We pray for everyone who supports married couples and families, that they be filled with the strength of the Kingdom of God, filled with love and filled with grace.

**Today we pray for:**

* **Ireland**
* **Iceland**
* **Italy**
* **Kazakhstan**
* **Kosovo**
* **Croatia**

**Day 4**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ’’Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!‘‘**

Father, thank you for showing us your will through your commandments. They are an expression of your love for us and for all creation. Your commandments ask us to love concretely (cf Romans 13:10). We ask you to forgive us where we have not done your will and have been without love. Help us with your Spirit to become people that love you, our God, and our neighbours with all our heart and be thankful for your creation. Amen.

**We say Yes to creation.**

Heavenly father, you are the creator of heaven and earth. We thank you for your creation, for the earth you entrusted to us to preserve. Help us and everyone to be committed to protecting nature, the climate and the environment. In this our commitment we place our trust in you and our hope in your saving help, that your will be done on earth. Amen.

**Today we pray for:**

* **Latvia**
* **Liechtenstein**
* **Lithuania**
* **Luxembourg**
* **Malta**
* **Moldova**

**Day 5**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Give us this day our daily bread!‘‘**

Heavenly Father we thank you for taking care of us every day. You provide us with everything we need for our daily life. And through Jesus Christ, your Son, you give us the ‘‘true bread‘‘ (cf Jn 6:32b-35); with Him you satisfy our hunger for life, peace, salvation and reconciliation. We gladly accept Him in our midst and our shared life. We want to belong to Him, we trust in Him and we want to do what he says. Amen.

**We say Yes to a just economy.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the work that makes it possible for us to earn a living. We ask for a just way of doing business that is geared to the needs of the individual and of humanity as a whole. We pray for all those holding positions of responsibility in the economical field. Give them strength, wisdom and joy to counteract hunger, poverty and suffering in this world, so that everyone may receive the daily bread for which we pray. Amen.

**Today we pray for:**

* **Monaco**
* **Montenegro**
* **Netherlands**
* **North Macedonia**
* **Norway**
* **Austria**

**Day 6**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us!‘‘.**

Heavenly father, we live by your forgiveness. You forgive us when we have sinned in our thoughts, with our words, with what we have done and omitted. We thank you for that.

Be near us in order to transform us into a people who can give witness to this atmosphere and culture of forgiveness. Amen.

**We say Yes to solidarity.**

Heavenly father, we pray for the poor, the suffering, the sick, people in need, near and far. We pray for those who, in addition to the yoke of poverty, often have to endure humiliation, for those feeling guilty because they have no work, no house, no residence permit and for having to beg. We pray for all who feel abandoned and lonely. We pray because your Son our Lord Jesus identifies himself with the poor. He says: As you did to a prisoner, a stranger, a sick person, someone thirsty, a hungry man, you did it to me. „ a (Matt 25:31-46). We invoke your mercy. Create justice for the poor and the disadvantaged. Give us, and all those bearing political responsibility, a heart for the poor. Amen

**Today we pray for:**

* **Poland**
* **Portugal**
* **Romania**
* **Russia**
* **San Marino**
* **Sweden**

**Day 7**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ’’Lead us not into temptation!’’**

Heavenly Father, do not let us fall. And where we have fallen, help us up again Where we are weak, give us strength. Keep us on the path of togetherness and protect us from all that leads us away from the path to unity that Jesus prayed for (Jn 17:22). Save us from the temptation to resign ourselves to divisions, unforgiveness and strife. Amen.

**We say Yes to peace.**

Father in heaven, we are before you and we ask for peace, for peace among peoples, for peace in our cities, for peace in our homes, for peace within us. We hope in Jesus, your Son. At His birth, the promise of the heavenly messengers came to us: that there would be peace on earth (Luke 2:14).

Strengthen our trust in Him. He is our peace! We pray for patience and wisdom for all who seek ways that lead to peace. We pray that the messengers of peace may be heard. Amen.

**Today we pray for:**

* **Switzerland**
* **Serbia**
* **Slovakia**
* **Slovenia**
* **Spain**
* **Czech Republic**

**Day 8**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘Deliver us from evil!‘‘**

Heavenly Father, deliver us, save us from the power of evil. We shelter ourselves in your grace and love. You sent Jesus Christ. By dying on the cross, He defeated the power of evil and overcame death. We trust in him. Give us the strength to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21). Overcome all dark thoughts, motives and intentions in us through the light of your love. We want to live with Jesus Christ as your children and trust in your love.

**We say Yes to responsibility for our society.**

Heavenly father, help us to practice Christian love in daily life and thus build up a climate in which willingness to work for others and the common good, grows.  Give us the strength and perseverance in our commitment that the cities we live in become the places of peaceful encounter of generations and different cultures. Amen

**Today we pray for:**

* **Turkey (Turkiye)**
* **Ukraine**
* **Hungary**
* **The Vatican**
* **United Kingdom**
* **Belarus**

**Day 9**

**We pray with Jesus Christ: ‘‘For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.‘‘**

Heavenly Father, we are full of thanks. Already now is reason for joy and hope. For your kingdom, your presence amongst us, the glory of your love, the unity of your people for which we yearn, that it can already be seen and experienced, even if often only symbolically. Your kingdom is coming and is already here. We thank you for that, Eternal God.  We confess together with all those who belong to you: You are full of grace, merciful, patient and of great goodness (Psalms 103,8). Amen.

**We pray for Europe.**

Heavenly Father, merciful God, we thank you for Europe, the continent on which we live. Thank you for the diversity of languages and cultures. Thank you for the wealth of traditions and history.

We also lament to you about all the darkness, all the wars, all the injustice and guilt of the history in which we too are implicated. Redeem us and give us a profound and sustainable reconciliation. Heavenly Father, open our eyes to your work in our midst. Strengthen all the power of faith, love and hope in us and among us.

We pray for the people of Europe that we may have the courage to walk paths of togetherness and peace. That we are sure that the love that Jesus commands us is always the way to life. We pray for justice in our dealings with one another, for the willingness to forgive the guilty one, so that peace may dwell among us.

As at the beginning of the history of the Gospel in Europe, when a European asked the Apostle Paul in a dream: "Come over and help us" (Acts 16:9-10), so today we ask you, merciful God: "Come to us and help us, send us your Holy Spirit that he may comfort, guide and enlighten us". Amen.